SURPRISE! CHRIS BROWN IS A DAD NOW

AND HIS GIRLFRIEND DUMPED HIM ON TWITTER. PAGE 13

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Thursday, March 5, 2015 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

Sick as a dog: SNOW SALT HAZARD

Salt. The ice-melt liberally sprinkled around city streets during the snowy season can have dangerous, detrimental effects on canine health. PAGE 02

Harper, a black lab, goes for a walk near the Schuylkill. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

High court grants delay in Fattah Jr. fraud trial

PAGE 06

Aziz Ansari is a man for women's rights

PAGE 16

NFL source says Mariota to Eagles is likely

PAGE 27

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1 NEWS

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1 James Van Der Beek: Why you should watch 'CSI: Cyber'

2 Tips on surviving daylight saving time from a sleep expert

3 New York City is still more affordable than San Francisco for renters

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You've got boots on, so give some to Fido

Vets say. Winter weather and rock salt make for sick and injured pets.

Veterinarians in cities that have been blanketed with snow are reporting an uptick in the number of sick dogs — and they say the culprit is chemically treated rock salt.

The pickled pooches are turning up in vets' offices with sore stomachs leading to vomiting, diarrhea and sometimes dehydration.

"On a snowy day, we'll see half a dozen dogs with upset stomachs," said Dr. Michael Farber, chief of staff at West Chelsea Veterinary in Manhattan, who also said a couple of dogs he's treated this year have required intravenous fluids.

The dogs ingest salt by licking it off of their paws or bellies, but that isn't the only danger.

"The biggest concern we have is if dogs are stepping on it," said Dr. Vince Thawley at Penn Vet's Ryan Hospital. "It can cause caustic injuries to paw pads."

Long-haired dogs tend to be susceptible because the fur between their toes tends to retain more salt. But small dogs, too, are at risk because they can be sickened by smaller amounts of salt.

One solution — dog booties, which run anywhere from $12 to $60 at Petco, or balloons, which are cheaper.

The problem is a near perennial one, with animal protection agencies such as the SPCA and the Humane Society issuing regular warnings to pet owners ahead of the winter season.

"I'm constantly cleaning off dog paws in this kind of weather," said Jim Cappaletti, who owns a dog walking and boarding business in New York.

DAN KELLEY
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Winter tips for pets

- Avoid freshly salted sidewalks, and watch out for other de-icing chemicals.
- Keep your pets moving to avoid frostbite or hypothermia.
- Try indoor exercise by playing with your dog in the house.
- Put booties on your dog's feet or wash their paws in warm water after a walk. If booties are too expensive, try using party balloons

Lindsay Imperis, a dog walker with Hands of Love, takes Kibo for a stroll. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Woof. Nine Chihuahuas removed from 'filthy' Roxborough home

Animal cruelty charges were filed Wednesday against local man Ian Spedding, 23, for keeping nine Chihuahuas in "filthy conditions" in his Roxborough rowhome, the Philly SPCA said.

Humane law enforcement officers from the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals executed a warrant Feb. 27 at Spedding's home on the 400 block of Ripka Street and removed the dogs from the home.

Five of the miniature dogs were surrendered to the PSPCA and will be available for adoption at the society's headquarters.

The PSPCA was alerted to Spedding after a complaint was filed on its animal cruelty hotline, said spokesman Jerry Buckley.

The Dept of Licenses & Inspection also issued a 10-day cleanout order for the home after the conditions were discovered, Buckley said.

SAM NEWHOUSE

Nine chihuahuas were rescued from a Roxborough home.
COURTESY: PSPCA

Guns

ATF charges 10 in Camden illegal sale ring

ATF agents arrested eight people Wednesday in the takedown of a ring that illegally sold 82 firearms around Camden over the past year, federal prosecutors said.

Ten men are charged with illegally selling "semi-automatic pistols ... sawed-off shotguns, assault-style rifles and pistols with high-capacity magazines," as well as a bullet-proof vest possibly stolen from a military base, said the New Jersey U.S. Attorney's office in a statement.

Prosecutors said ATF agents taped and videotaped illegal firearms sales to informants and undercover agents before making the arrests.

The people charged are Orlando Matos, 47, Robby Velazquez, 24, Orlando Velazquez, 46, David Potts, 43, Darnel Johns, 47, Donavin Jackson, 20, Dominique Lawrence, 27, Jayson Quinones, Dante Witcher, 45, and Elliot Nock, 31.

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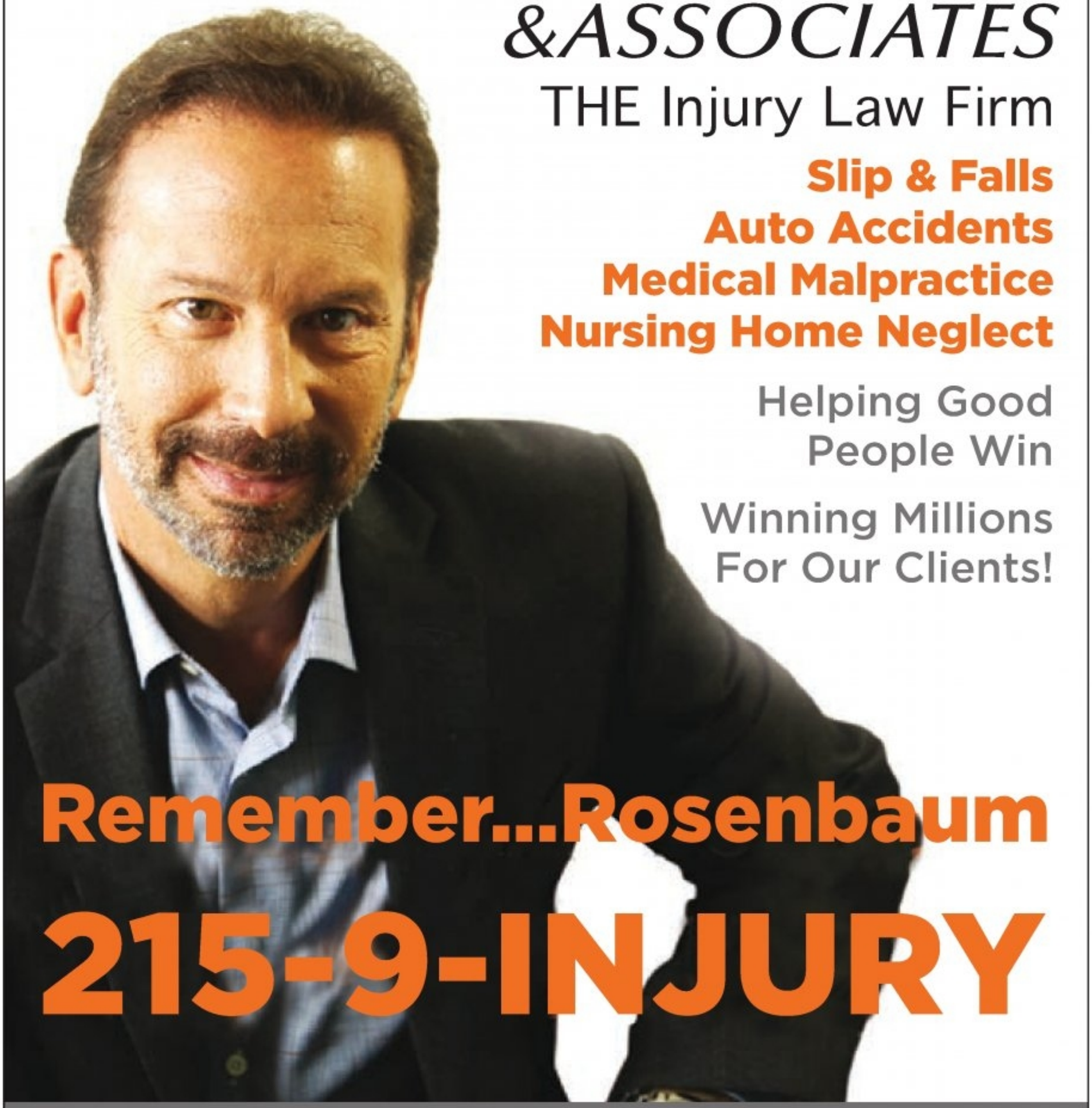

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A police officer wears a body camera. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Civil trial starts in pic arrest case

ACLU. Journalist says his rights were violated when he was arrested after trying to take pictures of police.

A student journalist arrested in 2011 for taking pictures of police took the stand in a case that could have implications for citizens who video police abuse.

Coulter Loeb said he refused orders to "walk away" from an arrest in Rittenhouse Square because it's his right to take pictures, and he is suing Philly cops, saying his arrest violated his constitutional rights.

Arresting officer George Gaspar Jr. "chest bumped" him, he says, after he asked to take a picture of a woman being taken from the park. Gaspar said Loeb interfered with an investigation.

Citizens' cell phone images have sparked a national dialogue on cop-community relations.

The First Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that "reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the right to film may be imposed when the circumstances justify them." But courts in the Third Circuit have not established a right to record police officers.

The ACLU reps Loeb and has four other cases before federal courts involving the right to film police. Loeb's is the first to reach trial.

Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey in Sept. 2011 wrote a memo saying citizens have a constitutional right to film cops after Loeb's arrest.

Quoted

"The right to record police without interfering is something I should be able to do."
Coulter Loeb

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Double Trouble. Molest probe for Chesco Rev.; Porn probe in Bucks

A Chester County priest facing child porn charges is now accused by three different churchgoers, one woman and two men, of sexual molestation.

The alleged incidents involving the Rev. Mark Haynes happened in the '90s. One of the allegations involves forced oral sex in a confessional, Chester County prosecutors say.

Prosecutors say the new probe justifies keeping Haynes behind bars until his kiddie porn trial. Haynes was formerly assigned to SS. Simon and Jude Parish in Westtown. Chester officials have not charged Haynes but say they are investigating.

Meanwhile, Rev. Louis J. Kolenkiewicz, 47, was put on leave last month for unspecified charges relating to possessing 12 child porn images out of 12,000 images he downloaded in 2005.

Rev. Mark Haynes
CHESTER COUNTY PROSCUTORS

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput is keeping him on leave while church officials and the Bucks County DA investigate.

JOHN A. OSWALD

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South Jersey

Woman who jumped into ocean with baby charged

On Wednesday, prosecutors charged Patricia Shurig, 24, of Atlantic City, with attempted murder for jumping off a jetty into the ocean while holding her 1-month old baby.

The incident occurred Oct. 26, 2014, according to Atlantic County prosecutors.

Emergency personnel and bystanders pulled Shurig and her infant from the water.

They were hospitalized and both survived. No motive was listed by prosecutors.

METRO

PATRICIA SHURIG
FACEBOOK

Court grants delay in Chaka Fattah Jr.'s trial

Court.
Congressman's son gets a delay in fraud trial as he prepares to represent himself.

Chaka Fattah Jr. / SAM NEWHOUSE

The federal corruption trial of charter school consultant Chaka Fattah Jr. won't be starting Monday as anticipated after an appeals court gave him more time to prepare his defense.

Fattah Jr., who is representing himself in the criminal case and faces up to 418 years if convicted, called the decision a "victory."

The Third Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals gave him 20 more days to file additional briefs.

He was indicted last August for allegedly overbilling the cash-strapped Philly public school system while working as a consultant for the Delaware Valley High School, a charter program for at-risk students. He is also accused of defrauding the IRS and filing falsified loan applications to various banks.

Fattah Jr., whose dad is Rep. Chaka Fattah, has denied the charges and called the indictment a "politically motivated" attempt to get at his father, also the subject of a long-running federal probe.

A superseding indictment released by the federal government last week detailed their case against Fattah Jr.

It claims Fattah Jr. contacted the school district to accuse DVHS of inflating their budgets — in part so he could set up his own company, to be called Dreamchasers, which would provide services similar to DVHS.

"Whether or I was starting Dreamchasers has nothing to do with the indictment," Fattah Jr. said after a hearing Wednesday.

FBI agents say Fattah Jr. incriminated himself by reporting the inflated budgets at DVHS.

Quoted

"I will now have the opportunity to have a fair hearing on a number of constitutional issues."

Fattah Jr.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Analysis

Timeline of an investigation

Fattah Jr.'s legal ordeal began in February 2012 after his apartment was raided by federal authorities.

At that point his contract with DVHS, as head of his own company called 259 Consulting, abruptly ended.

Fattah Jr. said he lost that work due to the raid — which was photographed by the Inquirer — and became unemployable, leading to his choice to represent himself for financial reasons.

A lawsuit Fattah Jr. filed against the IRS in March 2014 accused them of damaging his reputation by leaking news of the planned raid to the Inquirer. That suit is still pending.

The criminal indictment against Fattah Jr. accuses him of illegally obtaining almost $1 million from the School District of Philadelphia.

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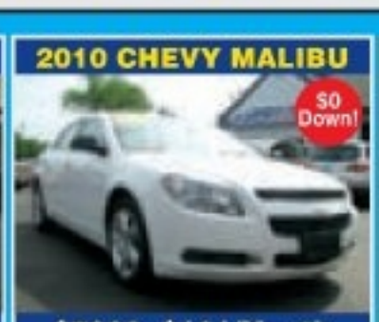

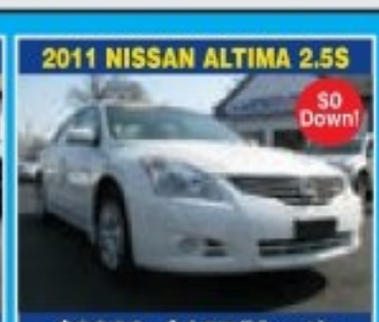

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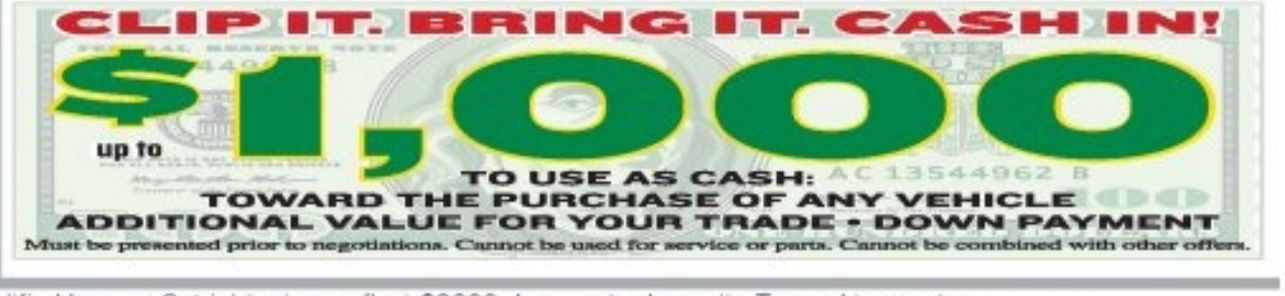
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Court sketch By Jane Collins / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI

Boston bomber's lawyer: 'It was him'

Trail. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev helped carry out the bombing, and his lawyers plan to explain why.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev helped carry out the Boston Marathon bombing at the Boylston Street finish line on April 15, 2013, his attorney told a packed courtroom Wednesday in the opening day of the 21-year-old's trial.

"It was him," attorney Judy Clarke said in her opening statement at the Moakley Federal Courthouse in the Seaport District. "So you might say, 'Why a trial?'"

Clarke pinned blame on Tsarnaev's dead brother, Tamerlan, who died during a shootout with police three days after the bombing.

"We do not and will not at any point in this case sidestep Dzhokhar's responsibility for his actions. We think the question of why is important, and this is where we disagree," Clark said in her response to prosecutor Assistant U.S. Attorney William Weinreb's opening statement.

"We have different answers to this question," said Clarke.

Legal expert Karen Pita Loor, a Boston University law professor, says Tsarnaev's defense team is focusing on the sentencing and conceding his guilt.

Tamerlan Tsarnaev, who would have been 28 today, was the mastermind of the terror spree, and Dzhokhar was merely dragged into his older brother's obsession with radical Islam but bore no hatred towards his fellow Bostonians.

"Tamerlan became aggressively obsessed with talking about Islam," said Clarke. "It was Tamerlan Tsarnaev who self radicalized. It was Dzhokhar who followed him."

Dzhokhar's grades at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth were plummeting; he was skipping class and was in danger of flunking out of school, Clarke said.

"Dzhokhar became much more vulnerable to the influence of someone he loved and very much respected — his older brother," she said. "[Tamerlan] had a special kind of influence dictated by age, culture and Tamerlan's sheer force of personality."

Quoted

"Unfortunately and tragically, Dzhokhar was drawn into his brother's passion and plan, and that led him to Boylston street." Clarke

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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morgan.rousseau@metro.us

US Justice Department

Probe finds systematic, racially biased policing in Ferguson

A U.S. probe found systemic racial bias and unconstitutional policing that targeted blacks in Ferguson, Missouri, but cleared a white officer there in the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager in August, the Justice Department said on Wednesday.

The report said police in the St. Louis suburb issued almost all of its traffic citations to blacks as it tried to raise revenue through fines and court fees.

Police also targeted blacks for arrests, many on dubious grounds, and spread racist jokes through emails, said the report.

The report said city officials routinely urged Police Chief Tom Jackson to generate revenue through enforcement actions against the town's mostly black population.

Officers were promoted in part based on the number of citations they issued, and civilians were seen less as "constituents to be protected than as potential offenders and sources of revenue," the report said.

REUTERS

Quoted

"This emphasis on revenue has compromised the institutional character of Ferguson's police department, contributing to a pattern of unconstitutional policing." The Justice Department

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Five things you

1 Netanyahu's popularity rises after speech, polls show

Israeli opinion polls on Wednesday showed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu got a slight boost in popularity after his U.S. speech slamming an emerging nuclear deal with Iran, but he is still running neck and neck with his leading rival in a March 17 election.

A survey published by Channel 10 television indicated Netanyahu's Likud party would gain two seats to 23 compared with what he had a week ago. That would still leave him in a tie with Isaac Herzog's Zionist Union.

The country's Channel 2 television had Netanyahu's right-wing party up by one seat to 23, just behind Herzog's left-of-center list.

In separate surveys conducted by the channels on each candidate's individual popularity, Netanyahu was favored by 44 percent for the job of prime minister, up two percentage points from a week ago. Herzog's number declined by two percentage points to 35 percent, results by Channel 10 showed.

But Netanyahu was further ahead of his rival in a Channel 2 popularity poll, with 47 percent choosing him and 28 percent opting for Herzog. All the surveys indicated Netanyahu had more potential political allies with whom to build a new governing coalition after the election.

REUTERS

NETANYAHU /GETTY IMAGES

2 Air Force launches push to recruit more women and minorities

The U.S. Air Force on Wednesday kicked off a drive to attract and retain more women and minorities, including a push to increase the number of female officers and pilots.

Air Force Secretary Deborah James announced nine measures that she said were critical to ensuring the Air Force's success, such as a Web-based mentoring system, longer deferrals for deployments after pregnancy and a 30-percent target for the percentage of females in the officer applicant pool, up from 25 percent.

REUTERS

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need to know

Supreme Court split over Obamacare challenge

The Supreme Court appeared divided on ideological lines Wednesday as it tackled a major challenge to President Barack Obama's health care law, with Justice Anthony Kennedy emerging as a likely swing vote in a ruling.

The nine justices heard 85 minutes of arguments in the case brought by conservative opponents of the law who contend its tax credits aimed at helping people afford medical insurance should not be available in most states. A ruling favoring the challengers could cripple the healthcare law, the president's signature domestic policy achievement. REUTERS

Thirty three miners feared dead after pit blast in Ukraine

Ten miners were confirmed killed and rescuers held out little hope for another 23 who were still missing after a blast at a coal mine in the rebel-held city of Donetsk near the battle front in eastern Ukraine on Wednesday.

Mine officials said the explosion was most likely caused by gas and not linked to fighting at the nearby frontline in the war between Moscow-backed rebels and Ukraine government forces. REUTERS

Rescue workers / GETTY IMAGES

US may review 1959 plane crash that killed Buddy Holly

Transportation safety investigators said on Wednesday they are reviewing a request to reopen a probe into the 1959 airplane crash that killed musicians Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, J.P. Richardson, better known as "The Big Bopper," and their pilot.

The original investigation conducted by the Civil Aeronautics Board blamed the crash on the pilot's decision to embark on an instrument-guided flight he was not certified for and, secondarily, on poor weather briefing. REUTERS

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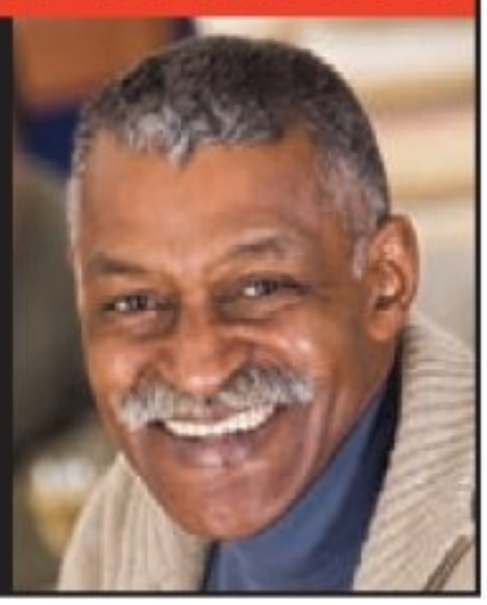

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Interview with Tara L Conley. Founder of the women's rights website 'Hashtag Feminism'

Tara L. Conley, a Columbia University doctoral candidate, is noted for founding Hashtag Feminism, a website that curates and analyzes women's rights-related tweets and messages across social media. She talks to Metro about the importance of online activism.

This is the fourth in a Metro series leading up to International Women's Day on March 8.

4 days to International Women's Day

How did you decide to become an activist?
I wouldn't call myself an activist so much as I would say that I'm someone who studies activism in a new media era. Perhaps others might think of the work I do as activist work because it has amplified the work of others, which is fine, but I don't take this term lightly. Having studied the work of activists from past to present, I take seriously the descriptor, and I continue to grapple with what activism looks like and can perhaps become in the future.

How did the idea for Hashtag Feminism emerge?
At the end of 2013, I began following closely conversations and stories attached to hashtags like #SolidarityIsForWhiteWomen, #NotYourAsianSidekick, and #MyFeminismLooksLike. I was fascinated and inspired by the stories and activisms that emerged around these digital artifacts. I put on my researcher's hat and went to Topsy.com, a web-based metrics tool, to learn more about how these tags came about over time. Topsy showed me the data, but it wasn't enough. I wanted to locate stories around the data, and I wanted to contextualize and historicize them, something a metrics tool cannot do. I wanted to curate these stories around feminist hashtags, and I also wanted to analyze them in a way that connects the data with our stories in meaningful ways. So in late 2013, I thought about starting a website that could accomplish these things. I wanted to create a space for myself and for other new writers to produce curated and editorial pieces on our own terms. All of this, along with being inspired by the creative design and execution of Beyonce's last album, influenced how Hashtag Feminism came into existence.

Can you tell us some examples of successful hashtag activism? Why were they a success, in your view?
One of the most successful hashtag campaigns I've seen to date has been #NMOS14 (National Moment of Silence), organized by feminist activist Feminista Jones. I cite this hashtag because it's one where we can see how online organizing and mobilizing has offline impact. In the wake of the fatal shooting of unarmed teenager Michael Brown, Jones and others used social and digital media to organize silent vigils to honor victims of police brutality around the country. #NMOS14 isn't the first and only mass movement organized online. There are many others. Even before Twitter, women were organizing online around post-Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts using Yahoo! listservs, and young college students in 2007 organized on MySpace and on Facebook during the Jena Six case. I've studied this sort of online-to-offline organizing for years now, and it's always encouraging to see people use new media tools and platforms for this kind of work. You can check out other successful and notable hashtags in our Top Feminist Hashtags lists of 2013 and 2014.

DANIEL CASILLAS, METRO WORLD NEWS

Tara L. Conley / METRO WORLD NEWS

Question

How can social media help defend rights for women?

I'm not sure social media "defends" women's rights. People do this work. Social media are tools and platforms where we find representation, expression, and where culture emerges.

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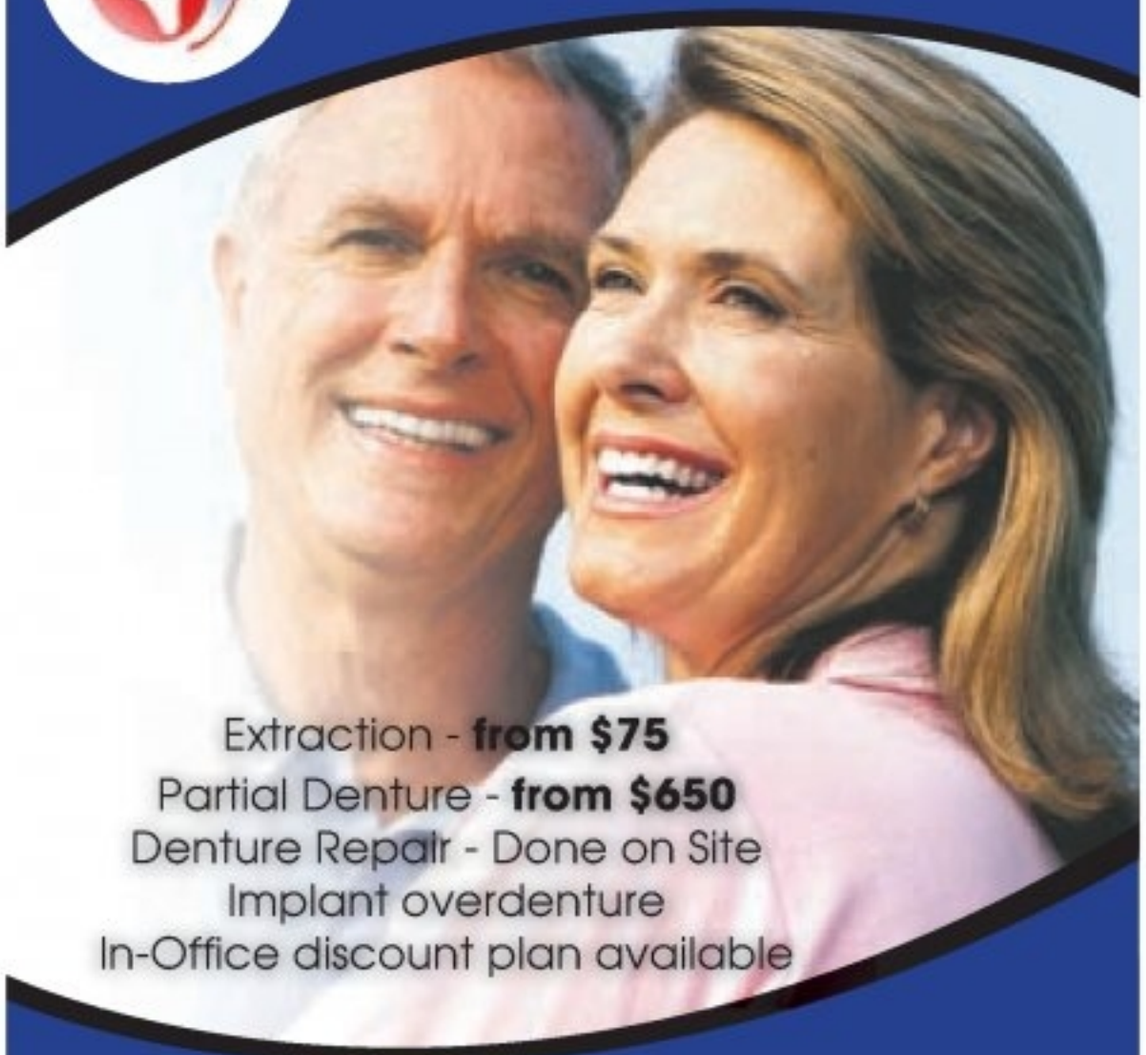

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1 Chris Brown embraces sudden fatherhood

Surprise! Embattled singer Chris Brown is a dad. All of a sudden. TMZ reports that Brown is the father of a 9-month-old girl with a former model identified only as Nia. There's no sign of legal trouble between the parents, and sources say they're on good terms and not romantically linked. So since it doesn't involve an ambulance dispatch or a court filing, I'm honestly scratching my head as to how TMZ found out about this.

While Brown is said to be "happy about being a father," his happiness is not shared by his on-again, off-again girlfriend, Karrueche Tran, who took to Twitter to officially dump him following the news. "Listen. One can only take so much. The best of luck to Chris and his family," she wrote. "No baby drama for me." Good thinking.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
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2 Seth Rogen smoked too much pot in Amy Pascal's new office

Amy Pascal must seriously be losing patience with Seth Rogen at this point. After that whole business with "The Interview" and the hacking and her losing her job and all, he's now inadvertently making it impossible for Pascal to move into her new office on the Sony lot. According to the Hollywood Reporter, Pascal is set to make a home for her new Sony-financed production company in the offices previously occupied by Rogen and writing partner Evan Goldberg, only the lingering stench of marijuana is so strong that it has seeped into the flooring and is prompting a full paint job. Seriously, Seth, you've never heard of a vaporizer?

3 Conrad Hilton pleading guilty for epic in-flight meltdown

Some trouble you can't just buy your way out of. Conrad Hilton — 21-year-old hotel chain heir and younger brother of Paris — has agreed to plead guilty to an assault charge from his infamous tirade during a flight from London to Los Angeles last year, and he could be looking at up to six months in prison and a $5,000 fine. And GQ even went and tracked down a passenger from the flight, British life coach Patricia Mitchell, who gives a fascinating account of the 11-hour episode. "God, he's an a—hole," she says. "He's been taught a certain way to communicate with people, and it's clearly not working. He looked deeply unhappy." Just imagine how he looks now.

4 Oscars backtracking on Best Picture category rules

Hey, remember when the folks behind the Academy Awards decided to change the Best Picture rules so that more than five films could be nominated? Well apparently six years later, they've decided it was a massive failure, and now they're looking to reverse it. "They tried it, and it really didn't do us any good," an Academy source tells the Hollywood Reporter. The rule change came in 2009 after "The Dark Knight" was left out of the Best Picture race, with the hopes that getting films with more broad appeal nominated would boost the ceremony's ratings. But with a 16 percent dip from last year's Oscars, that's clearly not happening.

Daily video

YAHOO.COM

'Community' ushers in 'The Age of Yahoo'

No, really. Cult favorite sitcom "Community" is really coming back — and soon. New episodes debut on Yahoo! Screen March 17, and to mark the occasion, we now have this awesome, epic trailer perfectly piggybacking on the anticipation for "Avengers: Age of Ultron." Despite all the melodramatic "Avengers" aping, we're pretty sure the final version is going to consist of new, hilarious must-see episodes. "Let's keep Greendale weird," indeed.

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Matthew Perry is mad about his body clock, Mindy Kaling is mortified, John Stamos is not letting you down gently, The Dalai Lama uses Twitter, and Ricky Martin is nothing if not determined.

@MatthewPerry: Why do I wake up when farmers wake up?

@mindykaling: I'm ten minutes early to a thing, I'm so humiliated

@JohnStamos: BACKBONE Stars say no, only amateurs always say yes. If it doesn't feel right, don't do it. Don't be afraid to let people know you won't.

@DalaiLama: Only tolerance and patience can protect us from the destructive effects of anger and hatred.

@ricky_martin: I can. I will. End of story.

Network TV is getting pretty grim

Interview. The actors working on "American Crime" had heavy work ahead of them.

"American Crime" premieres Thursday at 10 p.m. on ABC. / VAN REDIN, ABC

For anyone familiar with ABC as the network that gave us the cute family of "Modern Family," "American Crime" will be a bit of a shock. The show, created by "12 Years a Slave" writer John Ridley, follows the story of one murder, and the shockwaves that reverberate out as the police investigate the crime. The parents of the victim are played by Felicity Huffman and Timothy Hutton in performances both wrenching and human, as they struggle with their own feelings about the investigation.

Asked what pulled him back into series television, Hutton says, "This script and the fact that it was going to be John Ridley in charge of everything. It came at me as a sort of surprise. I read it one day, and I couldn't put it down."

Hutton's patriarch hasn't been a presence in his family's lives, and it was this nuance that helped him find the character. "For me, the kind of heart of the character, in terms of how to attack playing it, was this was somebody who took himself away from the responsibilities that nobody should take themselves away from and was a gambling addict," says Hutton.

ELVIS NOLASCO AND TIMOTHY HUTTON
GETTY IMAGES

"He really wants to be as much of a family as possible to try to pull through it. He realizes that you can't just do that. You can't just step into it, even with a tragedy like this. You're going to have to be measured by how you approached things earlier in your life or didn't approach them," Hutton explains.

Newcomer Elvis Nolasco plays drug addict Carter Nix, whose connection to the crime is not at first clear, but as the investigation draws on, he becomes a suspect. But he never loses all sympathy.

"That's made the whole experience for me so rewarding and so joyful," says Nolasco. "And this was one of the first things John [Ridley] said to me. He's like, 'I'm going to ask a lot of you. I'm going to need you. Are you ready?' I don't want to give too much away, because this guy really goes through the ringer."

Transformations

All for the role

Nolasco had to transform physically to play the part. Ridley told him, "lose weight, don't cut your hair," in order to look like a drug addict. Once filming wrapped, was running to a barber the next thing he did? "Yes. Right away. Started eating like a maniac," says Nolasco with a laugh.

Asked whether it's hard to shake off such dark subject matter at the end of the day, Nolasco says, "Yes and no. For me, it was just a matter of going home and watching television, which I love to do. I think it was once we wrapped that was the more difficult part for me."

What does an actor in the midst of playing a drug addict murder suspect watch to relax? "'Orange is the New Black,' 'Scandal,' 'Resurrection,' 'Shark Tank.' I love 'Shark Tank,'" says Nolasco. "Yes, it's about money, and it's about how to invest and how to pitch, but I think it's just an entertaining show."

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Interview. KaDee Strickland branches out from Shondaland

"Secrets and Lies" airs Sundays at 9 p.m. on ABC. / BROWNIE HARRIS, ABC

Many people change careers, but KaDee Strickland gets to play a pretty big change onscreen. Known for playing Dr. Charlotte King for six years on Shonda Rimes' "Private Practice," she's now appearing in the 10-episode "Secrets & Lies" as Christy Crawford, a realtor, and the wife of a man (Ryan Phillippe) who's accused of killing a small child, who begins to suspect her husband may be guilty. Just how different were the two experiences?

From Shondaland to 'Secret' land: Everything about it from a creative standpoint is different for me, because I've always known my process. When I was in Shondaland, it was a beautiful experience that I had prior to motherhood. I'd done it for six beautiful years of my life. I love working with Shonda. It's full-on, it's surprising at all times, and in a completely different way, I can say the same about this.

And about that career change: You can't get any further away from Charlotte than a real estate professional. I had gel nails; I never did that on "Private." Eyelashes, gel nails, all this stuff, but it was also fun for me because I would go in the neighborhoods around where we were and do research. I looked at real estate agents, and I actually pretended to be looking for a house. That was so different from delving into life-and-death surgery every day.

What was noticeable about those realtors: The way they talked with their hands at times. The way they would stand. The way they would present a room and then walk away and come back with new information. There were certain scenes where I would find myself doing my hands in a certain way, and it was my personal shoutout to my research, which was fun because you gotta mix it up.

The main similarity between the two projects: I had the great Barbie Kligman [who wrote the script], and either way, I was working for two badass women.

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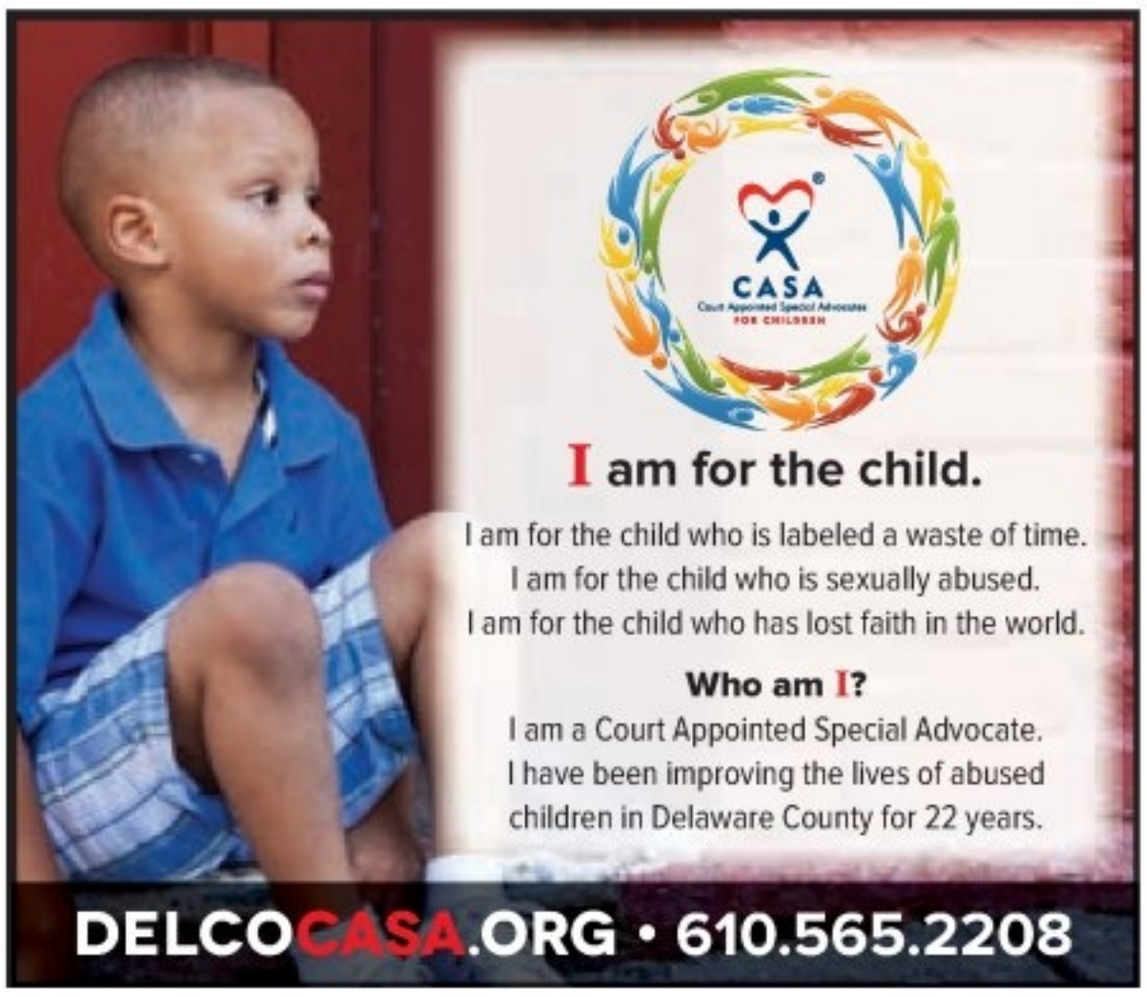
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CELEBRATE FEMINIST MEN ON WOMEN'S DAY

Aziz Ansari is one of the good ones, speaking out about women's issues. / GETTY IMAGES

This Sunday is International Women's Day. Yup, we're 51 percent of the population, and we have to have a day to acknowledge our existence. I was racking my brain, trying to think of what to write this week because I wanted to talk about something positive in celebration. What I came up with was allies: guys who support women and their fight for equality, specifically in Hollywood.

For every studio jerk who thinks women can't open an action film or casts a 20-year-old as the love interest for a guy with an AARP card, there are those who are fighting alongside us. For instance, "Parks and Recreation" star Aziz Ansari appeared on David Letterman's show to talk about feminism. "My girlfriend has influence on me," he said. "She's a big feminist. That made me think about those kinds of issues. I'm a feminist as well. Any feminists out here? Clap if you're a feminist." When the clapping wasn't too loud, he responded, "I don't believe you."

Feminism, he said, is about equal rights. "You're a feminist if you go to a Jay Z and Beyonce concert, and you're not like, 'Hm, I feel like Beyonce should get 23 percent less money than Jay Z. Also, I don't believe Beyonce should have the right to vote.'" When you put it that way…

He won over a lot of the audience that night, and Twitter was abuzz with people saying, "Oh, I never thought of it like that."

Emma Watson is the spokeswoman for He for She, an international organization for allies of gender equality. When Steve Carell wore He for She cuff links at the Oscars this year, she wrote him an incredibly sweet note of thanks. Seriously, look it up. You didn't think you could love her more, did you? You were wrong.

I bring all of this up because acceptance of an idea often comes when we hear our heroes or people we admire talking about it. Oh, he thinks it's OK? Maybe it is! Go support these guys. See their films. Tweet thank you notes. And most importantly, be an ally for the ladies in your life.

Happy Women's Day.

Geek Girl in Hollywood

JENNA BUSCH

JENNA BUSCH TAKES ON THE WAY POP CULTURE SNUBS ITS FEMALE FANS. VISIT METRO.US/JENNA-BUSCH FOR MORE COLUMNS, AS WELL AS HER SITE, LEGION OF LEIA (WWW.LEGIONOFLEIA.COM)

Buffy, too!

Another champion

Then there's Joss Whedon, always an advocate for strong women, who tweeted in support of Anita Sarkeesian's "Tropes vs. Women in Video Games" after Gamergaters attacked her en mass, saying, "Watch the @femfreq #TropesvsWomen vids. Even if u think u get it, the sheer tonnage makes misogyny seem newly appalling." And, "I watched a bunch of women get sliced up in video games and now I'm watching it on my Twitter feed. @femfreq is just truth-telling. Deal." When it was announced that the new Thor would be female, he tweeted "A female Thor? What the hell makes them think THAT would be cool?" with a picture of Katee Sackhoff as Starbuck in "Battlestar Galactica."

JOSS WHEDON
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TV watch list

You're getting two Backstroms this week, as Robert Forster is appearing as the senior Backstrom. / LIANE HENTSCHER, FOX

DRAMA

'Backstrom'

Backstrom runs into all sorts of personal drama this week as his case sends him back to his hometown, where he sees his estranged father and then later has a run-in with his ex-fiancee. **8 P.M., ABC**

TALK SHOWS

'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon'

Hugh Jackman stops by, as does the one and only Kelly Kapowski (Tiffani Thiessen, but we assume you knew that). **11:35 P.M., NBC**

REALITY

'The Real Housewives of Melbourne'

New cast members named Gamble Breaux and Pettifleur Berenger are joining, and if that's not reason to watch, what is? **SEASON PREMIERE, 9 P.M., BRAVO**

COMEDY

'The Odd Couple'

Oscar decides to throw a birthday party for Felix, but he has some ulterior motives for being so nice to his roommate: He's using the event as an opportunity to get Casey to like him more. **8:30 P.M., CBS**

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WHY COMPROMISE?

Demetri Martin plays two sold-out shows tonight at Helium Comedy Club. / WIREIMAGE

Demetri Martin: 'I skewed nerdy'

Interview. The comedian is no longer Googling himself.

"My rider is, like, broccoli, brown rice and hummus," Demetri Martin admits in his signature listless deadpan. "But I've added cold cuts and bread in there, actually, so I can make a little sandwich for myself."

After a moment: "That will probably knock a couple notches off whatever coolness I have left."

But hey, we never loved Demetri Martin for his coolness.

Neither did his central Jersey peers growing up, it turns out. "I was on the math team. I skewed nerdy," he recalls. "The culture there doesn't exactly celebrate that."

But by the end of the last decade, his quirky act had earned him stand-up star status, replete with acting gigs, TV appearances and an eponymous Comedy Central series.

It's been a few years since Demetri Martin, stand-up comic, has made much noise — even as Demetri Martin, writer, has published books and Demetri Martin, actor, has appeared on screens large and small. Fortunately, Demetri Martin, human, has recently turned his focus back to the skill that made his name, developing jokes for a new stand-up special to tape this weekend in Washington, D.C. On the way, he's stopping in Philly as part of his "The Persistence of Jokes" tour.

"I've always had a fascination with jokes," Martin explains. "Some comics, I guess, write for personas that are a portion of themselves. But I just write jokes." This formula has largely stayed constant, even as Martin, once known for his youthful demeanor, entered his 40s.

It was a relief when those jokes became the foundation of his reputation, rather than a background as a Yale graduate and law school dropout. "Fortunately," he says, "when people Google my name, they won't see that first anymore."

At least, he assumes. In a stunning act of information-age discipline, Martin stopped Googling himself about six years ago. "In comedy, we're trained to ask for people's approval," he says. "And the Internet is this big machine that you can go to and get opinions from people you don't know, who hate you."

Local stop

Playing Philly

Martin's stop at Helium Comedy Club will be one of the most intimate on his tour. "I've played Helium before, and it's one of the good ones," he says. "People don't know this, but clubs treat performers poorly. It's getting better with social media and such, but it's a shady business."

He recalls being shorted when a Kansas City club claimed only 150 were in attendance, though his seasoned eye saw a lot closer to its capacity of 375. After too many experiences like that, Martin, like many comics of his stature, elects to play traditional theaters in most cities.

But he'll make an exception in a town with a club that he likes: "When you're in a good club, it's intimate; you hear the glasses clinking. There's nothing like it."

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INSIGHT GUIDES

TRAVEL WEEKLY

WWW.INSIGHTGUIDES.COM TRAVEL WEEKLY, PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2015.

Five Caribbean cruises off the beaten path

Discover lesser known islands onboard sailing ships, tall ships and yachts.

ISTOCK

FRANK CERAVOLO

Scenic train rides in West Virginia

See the mountains at their most picturesque from a vintage steam train.

Making moonshine in Virginia

A family tradition: The Bondurant Brothers open their first distillery in Chase City.

ISTOCK

Five Caribbean cruises off the beaten path

SeaDreamII

SEADREAM

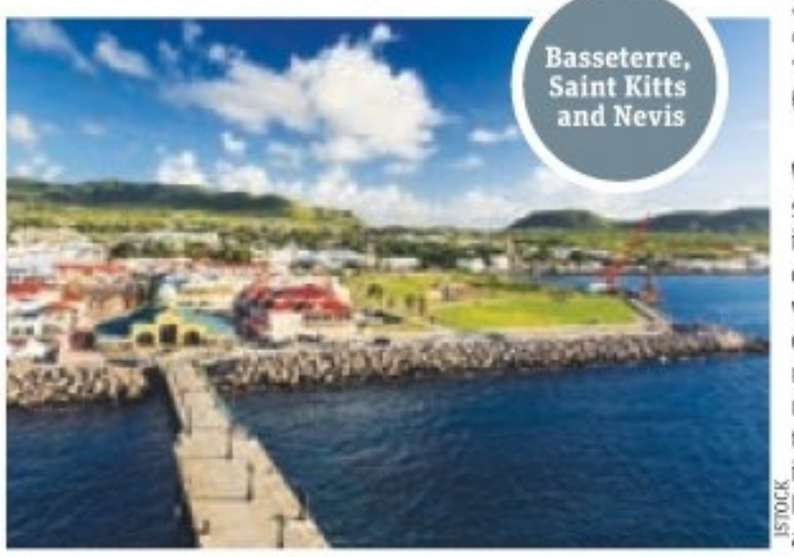
Sagitta

ISLANDWINDJAMMERS

Caribbean ports can get crowded in peak season, so why not join a cruise to some of the less visited islands?

The Caribbean certainly has its parade of "greatest hits" ports. And while they have lovely beaches and plenty of rum punch, they can also be quite crowded, particularly in the wintertime. If you're looking to get away from it all, consider one of these five cruises.

Azamara Journey, Azamara Club


Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis

ISTOCK

Why we love it: This 686-passenger ship sails from St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands. From there, you'll see Guadeloupe, Dominica, Nevis, St. Barth, St. Maarten and Virgin Gorda before returning to Miami. It's the best of both worlds: a great route that ends in an easy flight home.

Book it: The 12-night sailing departs December 11, 2015, and starts at $3,474 per person with double occupancy.

Sagitta, Island Cruises

> **Avoid the winter crowds by choosing a cruise that visits the Caribbean's quieter islands.**

Why we love it: This casual sailing yacht — complete with wood-lined cabins and tall masts — accommodates only 24 passengers at a time. The itinerary includes St. Barts, St. Kitts, Anguilla, Nevis, Iles des Saintes, Dominica, Guadeloupe and Martinique. The rum punch flows freely and snorkeling gear is provided.

Book it: The 12-night sailing departs May 10, 2015, and starts at $2,775 per person with double occupancy.

Windjammers

SeaDream II, SeaDream Yacht Club

Why we love it: This 112-passenger ship likes to think of itself as a yacht — they have daybeds for two on deck and a watersports platform, and the captain is allowed to change the route based on weather. The round trip out of St. Thomas takes in a variety of small islands, including Anguilla, St. Barth, Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke.

Book it: The five-night sailing departs November 22, 2015, and starts at $2,999 per person with double occupancy.

Virgin Gorda

CHRISTIAN WHEATLEY

Royal Clipper, Star Clippers

Why we love it: This 227-passenger tall ship is a dream if you love sailboats, with knot-tying classes, visits to the bridge and a bowsprit net, which may just be the best spot on the ship to sunbathe. The round trip out of Barbados visits Grenada, a couple of small spots in the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Bequia and two ports each in Martinique and St. Lucia.

Book it: The seven-night sailing departs November 28, 2015, and starts at $3,310 per person with double occupancy.

Wind Star, Windstar Cruises

Why we love it: This 148-passenger ship sails round trip out of Barbados to Grenada, three spots in the Grenadines and two ports in St. Lucia, offering a taste of both the rainforest and the beaches. Watching the sails being unfurled for the first time is a highlight.

Book it: The six-night sailing departs December 12, 2015, and starts at $1,799 per person with double occupancy.

Virgin Islands

ISTOCK

INSIGHT GUIDES | SHERRI EISENBERG

Top tips

Here are three ways to carve out some island time for yourself.

1 Get in a taxi: Before you leave home, research the nicest beach on the island that's within a short drive. Then, once you're in port, grab the beach towels from your cabin, a snack from the breakfast buffet and hop in a cab.

2 Have a nice, long lunch: If you're in a port you've already seen, or you have had your fill of beach days, make a reservation at one of the nicer restaurants on the isle. Often, you'll find these at luxury resorts.

ISTOCK

3 Plan a run: There's no better way to get to know an island than by throwing on your sneakers and plotting out a route. You'll get your workout in, see the island and work off the big dinner you had the night before.

Discover your perfect cruise with the
Berlitz Cruising Guides

Berlitz www.berlitzpublishing.com

Scenic train rides in West Virginia

As spring comes to the West Virginia mountains, winter-weary eyes can enjoy the wildflowers, waterfalls and sweeping vistas on steam train excursions.

The Durbin and Greenbrier Valley Railroad uses classic steam engines and vintage diesels for its Mountain Rail Adventures. Many of these trips go to areas unreachable by cars because there are no roads.

Leaving from Elkins, Durbi and Cass in east-central West Virginia, the line offers a variety of trips. Full-day excursions go deep into the Monongahela National Forest, while shorter sightseeing trips roll along the Greenbrier and Shaver's Fork Rivers.
The season opens on Saturday, April 4, with the kid-centered "Cottontail Express." The Easter Bunny and his friends are on board the 90-minute ride with games and treats. The two trips that day usually sell out.

April 11 and 18 are set aside for the Mountain Cascades Excursion. The four-hour run climbs steep mountain grades with spectacular views along the cascading waters of Shavers Fork. The train stops at the High Falls of Cheat River where spring snow run-off tumbles down the mountain and wildflowers bloom on the hillside.

Cottontail Express

ALL PHOTOS MOUNTAIN RAIL ADVENTURES

Starting Memorial Day Weekend, there's an overnight trip, "Wild Heart of West Virginia." It's a combined ride on two trains, with a run up either Cheat Mountain or Bald Knob (one of the highest mountains in the state). Passengers have the option of staying in an authentic "company" house at the Cass Scenic Railroad State Park (reservations required). The full schedule for the season includes special trains to a folk craft fair; wine tasting trips; trips to bluegrass, gospel and mountain music festivals; murder mystery dinner trains; a viewing of the full lunar eclipse in September; and even an overnight camping trip to a SPAMTRAK festival.

Take a short sightseeing trip or a full day ride aboard a steam train.

For details of these scenic trips, prices and packages, visit www.mtn-rail.com or call 877-686-7245.

INSIGHT GUIDES | FRAN SEVERN

ISTOCK

Making moonshine in Virginia

When the Bondurant Brothers cork their first bottle of moonshine, they'll be following an old family tradition — only this time it will be legal.

The Bondurant Brothers' granddad and uncles were infamous bootleggers in the south-central Virginia hills during Prohibition. The 2012 movie "Lawless" is loosely based on the family story.

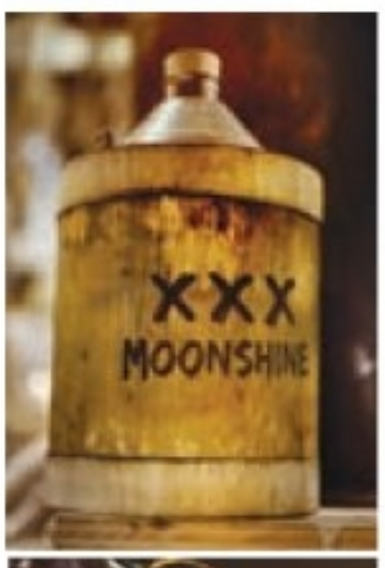
"Making moonshine was a way of surviving in the Great Depression," said brother Robert Bondurant.

Noting the popularity of craft distilleries, the brothers decided to retrieve the family recipe. They're making 'shine the traditional way: "No high tech. We're doing it like they did 100 years ago."

The distillery is in a restored grain mill in Chase City, Virginia.

Their first product, due out in late spring, will be a classic clear moonshine. They plan to also sell apple and peach brandy, as well as an aged corn whiskey later in the year. Look for the first sell date at www.bondurantbrothersdistillery.com

INSIGHT GUIDES | FRAN SEVERN



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Ocean View $969* Balcony $1249*
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Step up your (sneaker) style

Kicks have almost ousted high heels from their longtime position as the most fashionable footwear. While plain white Stan Smith-like pieces are still very much in this season, many brands are ramping up Crayola-esque pops. Metro looks at the top trainer collaborations. **ELODIE NOEL**

1 **Adidas Originals x The Farm Company "Superstar 2"**
$125, Office.co.uk

2 **Converse x Missoni Chuck Taylor All Star**
$95, Shoescribe.com

3 **Le Coq Sportif x Liberty London "Eclat Midnight" sneakers**
$107, Lecoqsportif.com

4 **New Balance 574 Textile Turquoise Sneakers**
$129, Asos.com

5 **Nike Air Huarache**
$100, nike.com

6 **Reebok Classic x Sandro "Insta Pump Fury"**
$180, Sandro-paris.com

7 **Solange x Puma "Trinomic" trainers**
$180, Farfetch.com

8 **Valentino 1973 Rockrunner suede-paneled printed leather sneakers**
$845, Net-a-porter.com

9 **Vans Floral Camo slip-on**
$55, vans.com

10 **Yosh x Swear printed lace-up sneakers**
$125, Swear-london.com

Only 12 New Affordable Units Available

Oakdale Street
Apartments

First come first serve

Spacious New Apartments on the 2800 block of Oakdale Street near Lehigh Ave. in North Philadelphia

All applicants must apply on March 17th or 18th between 10:30 am - 4:30 pm in person at the Widener Library (2808 W. Lehigh Avenue). To apply for an accessible unit call 215.684.1200.

- Three new 1-bedroom apartments - maximum occupancy: two people
- Seven new 2-bedroom apartments - maximum occupancy: four people
- One 1-bedroom unit is for the mobility impaired
- One 2-bedroom unit is for the hearing impaired
- Be prepared to provide the date of birth and SS# for all household members
- Income limits apply; applicants are subject to criminal and background checks

If you require a language assistance, please call 215.684.5767.

Philadelphia Housing Authority

Relationships. Logan Levkoff of 'Married at First Sight' keeps it real.

Relationship expert and sexologist Dr. Logan Levkoff serves as an expert on the reality show "Married at First Sight" on FYI. The show sends two strangers down the aisle and follows them as they try to keep their marriage afloat.

Levkoff talked to us about one major issue she thinks is inhibiting healthy relationships: unrealistic expectations.

One expert says the reason we have unrealistic concepts of love is because of popular culture. / ISTOCK

You say that people today have unrealistic expectations of sex and physical appearance.
In general, we have these really glamorous expectations of what is sexy and what sex looks like. Magazines gloss over the awkward, real moments as opposed to the sort of airbrushed moments. Even the idea that there are great new sex positions is problematic — we've created this hierarchy of what it means to be good at sex. It's the reason why we're so unsuccessful in our relationships and pursuit of relationships; our expectations are grounded in fantasy.

So what should be done?
I think the first thing to remember is there's no such thing as being good at sex or anything sexual. I think the best partners are those who ask good questions and listen to us and take our cues and create an environment in which both people's pleasure is maximized.

How do you think online dating has contributed to this perception of idealized sex?
I think we should use every option available to us to love and sex if that's what we want. If you want a connection, then why close down avenues available to you? The flip side of that is that the culture of these apps is that there are these giant pools you swipe through really fast. We're quick to run when an obstacle comes up because it's easy to run instead of thinking about what's worth working through. Relationships aren't meant to be easy. **ANDREA PARK**

Drink local at Brewer's Plate

Pairings. The popular food and beer fest is back with the region's top restaurants and breweries.

Brewer's Plate will take over three floors of the Kimmel Center this Sunday. / SEAN M. FITZGERALD

When Brewer's Plate started, most people in Philly probably thought "locavore" was a newly dug-up dinosaur. Just over a decade later, the annual "buy fresh, buy local" festival has grown from a small gathering of in-the-know industry types at Reading Terminal Market to 1,400 people paying up to $99 for tickets (which are well on their way to selling out).

"It's a pretty proud moment — it shows the way Philadelphia has embraced foods of integrity," says Bill Covaleski, president of Victory Brewing Co. in Downingtown and founder of Brewer's Plate. "Eleven years ago, it was an odd concept, but now it's not an odd thing to see people here prioritizing the ethical raising and local sourcing of their food."

Brewer's Plate connects brewers, distillers and winemakers with chefs, restaurateurs and farmers to create innovative pairings in the sustainable, farm-to-table tradition — pairings attendees get to sample.

The event, guided by Covaleski, is put on by nonprofit Fair Food. Like Brewer's Plate, the organization had a jump on the trend: It has been connecting farmers with chefs and promoting locally sourced food since 2000.

"In the beginning, we would have to play matchmaker," Covaleski says. "Now many of the brewers and the restaurants have great relationships throughout the year.

"It's an opportunity to position your restaurant or your brewery differently for a more culinary-minded crowd," he adds.

In addition to the food and drink pairings, Victory teamed up with Michigan's small, LEED-certified Brewery Vivant to create Bon Vivant, a saison-style ale making its debut at Brewer's Plate. It won't be distributed in this market.

"If we have extra kegs [of Bon Vivant], we'll likely have them at our brewpub in Downingtown, but that's it," Covaleski says. "I don't want be dramatic, but Brewer's Plate might be your only time to try it in Philadelphia."

RACHEL VIGODA
@rachelatmetro
rachel.vigoda@metro.us

Strategy

What to expect

Brewer's Plate will get crowded, so Covaleski recommends forging your own path: Stroll around and look for open spots instead of queuing up in the nearest line. And while the brewers and chefs are happy to chat about their products, don't linger too long and hold up service.

Here are just a few of the participants whose tables we're excited to stop by:

Restaurants
- Alla Spina
- Bar Ferdinand
- Eclat Chocolate
- Russet
- Village Whiskey

Breweries
- Angry Orchard
- Brewery Vivant
- Dogfish Head Brewery
- Round Guys Brewing

If you go

Brewer's Plate
March 8
6:30 p.m. (VIP tickets for 5:30 p.m. entry are sold out)
Kimmel Center
300 S. Broad St.
Remaining tickets are $69 to $79

www.brewersplate.com

Cocktail. Sip adventurously in honor of National Absinthe Day

Rather than cut your ear off a la van Gogh, we have a better suggestion for how to toast to National Absinthe Day today.

Heather Rodkey at the cozy Rex 1516 on South Street is using moderation as a guide in her absinthe-rinsed Sazerac, made with Vieux Carre, Philadelphia Distilling's version of the notorious liquor (which still packs a punch, even without the hallucinogenic chemical compound — banned for the last 100 years).

More adventurous imbibers can try Rodkey's recommendation for drinking absinthe on its own:

Step 1: Pour 1.5 oz. of absinthe into an absinthe glass (it looks like a sundae glass).
Step 2: Place a sugar cube on a slotted spoon.
Step 3: Pour a steady, fine stream of chilled water (about 4 to 5 oz.) over the sugar cube, dissolving as much as possible in the process, into your glass of absinthe.
Step 4: Stir the remainder of the sugar cube in the "louche," which is the cloudy, aromatic beverage you're about to try.

Rex 1516's Sazerac

Ingredients:
- 1.5 oz. Rittenhouse Rye Whiskey
- 2 dashes of Peychaud's Bitters
- 1 sugar cube
- Ice
- 1 barspoon of Vieux Carre Absinthe
- Lemon peel

Directions:
Rinse a chilled old-fashioned glass with the absinthe and dump it out. Mix the remaining ingredients (except for the lemon peel) in a separate glass with ice and strain into the absinthe-rinsed glass. Twist the lemon peel over the glass, drop it in and enjoy.

Rodkey uses Vieux Carre from Philadelphia Distilling.
PROVIDED

RACHEL VIGODA

Listings

MUSIC

ANNA MILLE

The Liberian Women's Chorus for Change

Friday, 7:30 p.m.
International House
3701 Chestnut St.
$8-$15, 215-387-5125
www.ihousephilly.org

This supergroup of Liberian singers includes Fatu Gayflor, Marie Nyenabo, Zaye Tete and Tokay Tomah. All established artists in their own right, they were brought together by the Philadelphia Folklore Project. They sing both traditional Liberian and original songs.

Continues on page 24

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Locust Rendezvous
...1415 Locust St. 215-985-1163
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Standing the test of time
FULL MENU UNTIL 1:00AM
Daily 11am-2am
www.locustrendezvous.com

Continued from page 23

DANCE

Tango Buenos Aires

Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Temple Performing Arts Center, 1837 N. Broad St.; $30, 800-298-4200; www.templeperformingartscenter.org
This celebrated Argentinean tango troupe will perform "Song of Eva Peron," a piece inspired by the life of Argentina's most famous first lady, herself a lover of tango, who rose from poverty to become one of the most influential women of her time. Yes, she said not to cry for her, but never not to tango for her.

COLUMBIA ARTISTS MANAGEMENT INC.

CONVENTIONS

Philadelphia Flower Show

Through Sunday
Philadelphia Convention Center, 1101 Arch St.; $20-$32, 215-988-8800; www.theflowershow.com
Spring is just around the corner, but you'll get an advance taste of it at the annual PHS Flower Show, which promises "gardens, elaborate landscapes and over-the-top floral creations." There are competitions, a butterfly exhibit, how-to workshops and even a beer garden. This year's theme is "Celebrate the Movies."

ROB CARDILLO PHOTOGRAPHY

ART

PROVIDED

Chantal Westby: Spiritual Transition

Through March 14
Bazemore Gallery, 4339 Main St.; Free, 215-482-1119; www.thebazemoregallery.com
As the title of this solo exhibition suggests, spirituality plays an important role in local painter Chantal Westby's energetic images, which often focus on a single human figure, rendering visible the invisible journey of the soul in a Universe that is not wholly material. "I give my imagination full rein," she writes in her bio, "ignoring artificial boundaries of space and time."

THEATER

'The Rocky Horror Show'

Thursday through March 28
The Papermill
2825 Ormes St.
$10-$20, 215-278-9504
www.brainspunktheater.com
Worry not, you haven't fallen into a time warp — this is the original musical that inspired the film "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." Over 40 years since its London debut, it still has the market cornered on campy rock operas about mad transvestite scientists. In keeping with tradition, BrainSpunk will be performing it at midnight on Saturdays.

'Moon Cave'

Through March 22
Off-Broad Street Theater
1636 Sansom St.
$15-$25, 215-563-1100
www.azukatheatre.org
Azuka Theatre presents this play by Douglas Williams about a man who survived a highly publicized traumatic event as a child. Troubled by the twin demons of post-traumatic stress and dubious fame, he's isolated himself from society — until a love interest enters his life.

DANCE

'Swan Lake'

Thursday through March 15
Academy of Music
240 S. Broad St.
$35-$129, 215-893-1999
www.paballet.org
Pennsylvania Ballet presents Christopher Wheeldon's version of Tchaikovsky's immortal ballet, which the company premiered a decade ago. Wheeldon takes a meta-fictional approach to "Swan Lake," beginning with a dancer rehearsing the role of Prince Siegfried in his room. Eventually he comes to merge fully with his character, the entire ballet staged as a fantasy in his mind.

COMEDY

Figment Theater Ensemble Night

Fridays, 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
Figment Theater
1219 Vine St.
$10, 215-833-8867
www.figmenttheater.org
Each Friday this year, Figment Theater will feature improv from a rotating selection of three of its six ensembles: The Avengers, Jackaloupe, Playback, Rufus, Triple Double and Wussy Riot.

MUSIC

Boogaloo

Friday, 10:40 p.m.
Kung Fu Necktie
1250 N. Front St.
$6, 21+, 215-291-4919
www.kungfunecktie.com
Got a little skank in you? Of course you do. Skank on down to this evening of soul, ska and R&B, with DJ Scott B. and friends spinning tunes and a live performance by the Snails, who play a Jamaican-influenced mix of all three genres.

ART

Jinming Huang

Friday through March 28
PII Gallery
242 Race St.
Free, 215-592-1022
www.piigallery.com
Chinese painter Jinming Huang has been featured in international shows in Italy and Spain, but this is his first solo show in the U.S. His wild, weird, funny canvases recall the nightmarish body horror of Francis Bacon, the ecstatic folk art visions of William Blake and the mind-warping surrealism of Salvador Dali.

BOOKS

Michio Kaku

Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Free Library of Philadelphia
1901 Vine St.
$6, 215-567-4341
libraryphila.tix.com
Many scientists are cautious about predicting future technological advancement, but Michio Kaku is not one of them. The professor, a contributor to string field theory, claims we already have a theoretical basis for time travel, teleportation and other sci-fi mainstays. His latest book is "The Future of the Mind."

TOURS

Upstairs Downstairs

Friday, 7 p.m.
Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion
200 W. Tulpehocken St.
$20, 215-438-1861
ebenezermaxwellmansion.tix.com
Can't get enough of "Downton Abbey"? This tour of the Ebenezer Maxwell mansion is for you. Your docent will lead you around the Victorian manor, where you'll meet actors performing as servants and the wealthy people they serve, and learn all about the era's social strata, which were almost as constricting as the corsets. **MATTHEW DINARO**

Horoscope

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20
Expect an old friend to reappear. You'll enjoy comparing notes. Any hard feelings should be put aside.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20
A minor medical problem will escalate if you don't look after it. You will face obstacles if you aren't accepting. Try going with the flow.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21
Nurture personal relationships by instigating an interesting activity that you can enjoy. Friends, children or your mate should be included in your plans.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20
Someone you were counting on will renege on a promise. Don't waste time thinking of a way to get even.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22
Put your skills to work. Networking and sharing your ideas will impress an influential individual who can help you move your plans forward.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22
Don't make enemies at work or within your circle of friends. A minor misunderstanding will lead to an uncomfortable situation.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22
The tide is turning, and flexibility will be key. A new position will have a positive outcome.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22
Someone will try to discredit or undermine you. Make sure your professional dealings are legitimate. Love is in the stars.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Take on a challenge or get involved in a cause. A decision you make may not be popular, but if you follow through with your plans, you will make a valuable contribution.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21
A display of dishonesty will rankle. Keep a low profile and do a little soul searching before you address the issues.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Follow your heart. A change of direction is in the offing. If a new beginning is what you need, make the change.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Positive changes are heading your way. Make everyone aware that you are up for a challenge. Your intelligence will bring results. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

		5				1		
		8		1	2		5	9
2		7		9		3		
1		4						
	5		1		7		9	
						8		7
		1		5		4		3
9	8		6	2		5		
		2				9		

		9	4					
6	4		7				1	
	7				5	8		
	1	5	8	7			3	
2								8
	3			5	9	1	2	
		1	9				5	
	2				7		6	9
					4	7		

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Netanyahu not working for peace

I was not impressed by Netanyahu. He is very hypocritical. He cannot reasonably call for a nuclear-free Iran, while Israel possesses a large nuclear arsenal. I do not like the government of Iran, but he is in no position to criticize. Last summer, he killed 2,300 Palestinians and left over 400,000 homeless in response to the horrific murder of three Israeli teens. He has no peace plan, only a plan to build more settlements and continue to imprison and discriminate against Palestinians. His government practices apartheid. Israel has an elaborate legal structure of separation against Palestinians.
SHIFRA FREEWOMAN

Not an apt metaphor

Re: 'What it takes for Kanye West to speak at Oxford' (Metro, Feb. 3)
You shouldn't have been a fan of Kanye West's comment: "We have the ability to approach our race like ants, or we have the ability to approach our race like crabs." Crabs are almost constantly fighting against each other. Ants, though highly hierarchical, at the end they do what is best for everyone in the colony. How do you think the world would be if everyone worked for the well being of everyone else?
LILY MARIN, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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Crossword

Across
1 Bounce along
5 Sight from Messina
9 Relieved sigh
13 More than uptight
15 Hoops nickname
16 Drift here and yon
17 Not spaced-out
18 Dance wear
19 Declare
20 Yang complement
21 Helped an actor
23 Fuse unit
25 Not a single woman
26 Horrible
27 Ennui
30 Friction easer
31 Griffith or Zola
32 Howls at the moon
37 Boundaries
38 Marmalade chunks
40 Latest thing
41 Where to make a splash
43 Slight trace
44 Puffin kin
45 Common wildflowers
47 Finds out
50 Mouse catchers
51 Ran after
52 Guitar ridge
53 Toothpaste type
56 Fails to keep up
57 Reason to cram
59 Chopin opus
61 Between ports
62 Facet
63 "The Black Tulip" author
64 On guard
65 Stadium section
66 Real estate ad abbr.

Down
1 Influence
2 Fuzzy fruit
3 Persia, today
4 — annum
5 Respect
6 Dull sound
7 "Mona Lisa" crooner
8 Opening number of "Hair"
9 Shawls, e.g.
10 Shack
11 A chicken in — pot
12 Had been
14 Make the call
22 Pilot's sighting
24 Pepper grinder
25 — rarebit
26 Kind of dust
27 Complain
28 Old Dodge model
29 Disposes of
32 Sturm — Drang
33 Faulty
34 Cager — Kukoc
35 Threshold
36 Gets the message
38 Least flat
39 Calligraphy fluids
42 Fix apples
43 Sloped
45 Attic window
46 Floor
47 "Kundun" setting
48 Rah-rah
49 Test, as ore
51 Lobster pincer
52 Slowly vanish
53 Adhesives
54 Mild cheese
55 In case
58 Noon on a sundial
60 Butter container

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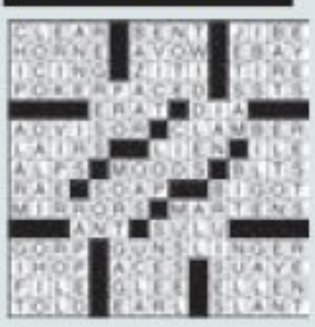

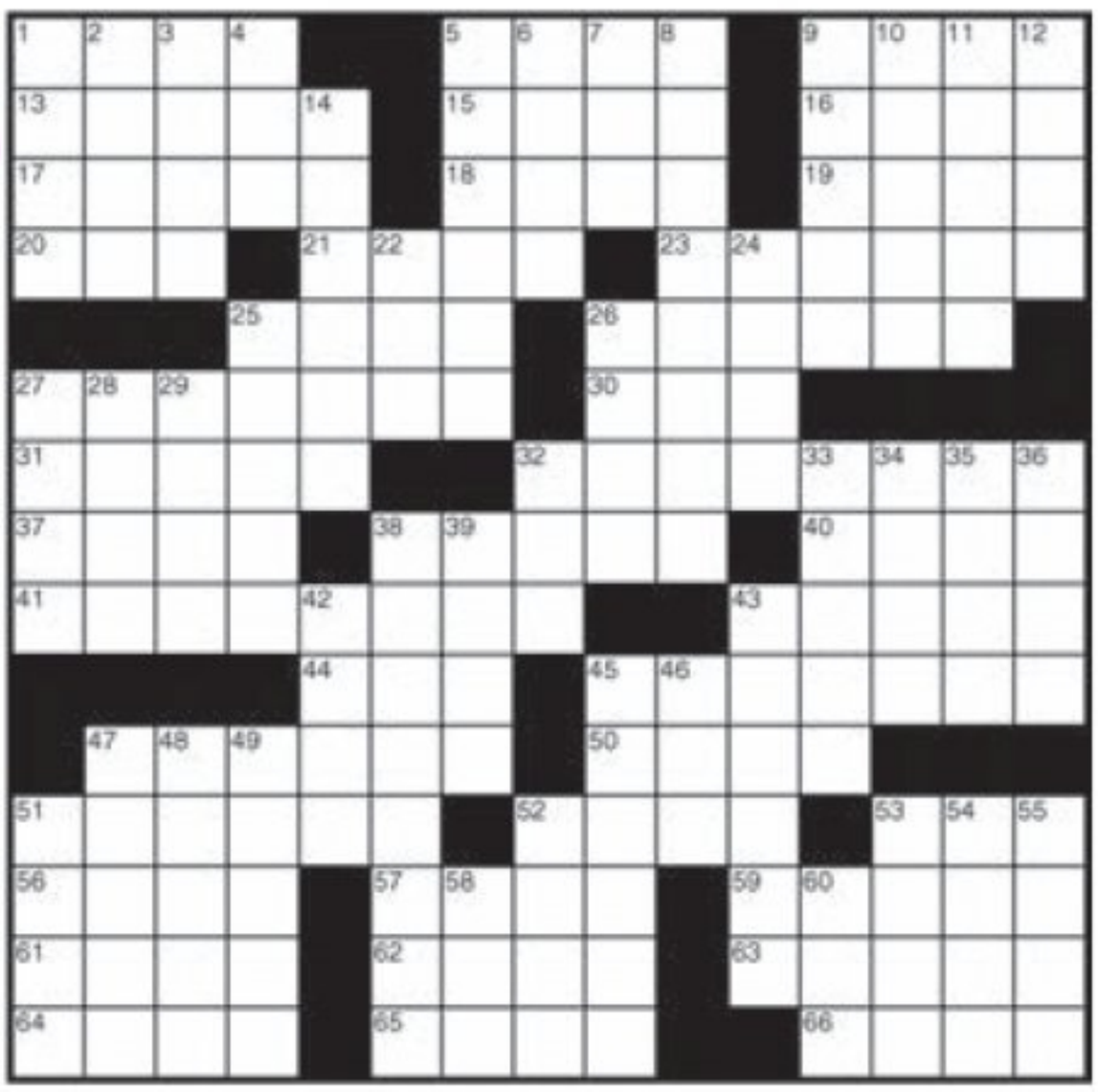

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3 SPORTS

Cole shouldered

Eagles officially cut Cole

The Birds let Trent Cole go Wednesday, after the veteran amassed 795 tackles and 20 multi-sack games. "We spoke with Trent and his agent and expressed a desire to have him back," Chip Kelly said. "At this point, we think it's best to let him explore other options around the NFL."

3 Reasons McCoy trade is good for the Eagles

NFL. The Eagles shocked football fans when it was revealed they were trading LeSean McCoy to the Bills.

The Eagles are parting ways with their all-time leading rusher. They are abandoning the NFL's top workhorse and one of the most productive backs in the history of one of football's greatest franchises.

They are also shipping away one of the most interesting personalities this city has ever had — a locker room presence that has helped to define the Eagles for the last six years.

How can his departure be a good thing? Here are three reasons why.

On the decline

Sure, he's just 26 and will be 27 when the season kicks off in September.

But he has had a ton of reps, the most in football over the last five seasons, and his production has started to creep down.

A running back is usually considered "washed up" around age 30, and obviously McCoy is well short of that measuring stick. But for all his dynamic production, Chip Kelly and the Eagles knew it was time to move on.

He may be close to his pinnacle now, but he will start to descend in effectiveness, and the Birds wanted no part in that.

Alonso's a stud

He's just 24 and has a bright future. In 2013, he nearly won Rookie of the Year after he amassed 159 tackles, third most in the league. He even had 22 in a game against the Bengals. He also had four interceptions and became the first rookie linebacker in over 30 years to have a pick in three straight games. He was a fan favorite in Buffalo and is a hard worker. His offseason ACL injury cost him the 2014 season, which is the only real red flag. He and Mychal Kendricks could be an epic pair in the middle for years to come.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Too expensive

The Eagles got a lot of value from this trade.

They have $7.5 million in cap space they didn't before; they can spend toward a free agent back like C.J. Spiller or DeMarco Murray. They also get Alonso, who could be one of the best linebackers in football, and very soon. It doesn't take a top running back to win a Super Bowl, and Kelly knows this. Just look at the Patriots.

And here's a stat: Philly has not won a playoff game with LeSean McCoy. In six seasons, they haven't won one. Maybe this trade will get them back to 2008 form.

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NFL source says Philly landing spot for Mariota

NFL. A league source says Eagles will move up to No. 6 to draft Marcus Mariota if he is available at that spot.

In their recent wheeling and dealing, the Eagles have not bolstered their stockpile of draft picks — does this make them less likely to trade up for Mariota? / GETTY IMAGES

If Marcus Mariota is available at the No. 6 pick in next month's NFL Draft, he likely will be taken. But a league source said that his landing spot then likely won't be the New York Jets, the team that currently holds that selection.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a highly placed league source termed a potential marriage between Mariota, the Heisman and Maxwell Award winner after a stunning season as quarterback at Oregon, and the Jets as "highly unlikely." The source, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that the Jets aren't in the mood to pick Mariota with their sixth pick and that, if the Oregon quarterback is available, the "Jets will be shipping that pick away."

The likely landing spot?

"Philadelphia would make that move and pay that price. We're talking multiple picks and a player," the source said. "The Jets would be open to moving the pick, and the Eagles have internally prepared to move up in the draft. There are contingencies in place, and they know that Marcus is that perfect fit."

Of course, Mariota played under current Eagles head coach Chip Kelly before Kelly left for the NFL in 2013. Given his obvious familiarity with the Eagles offense, Mariota would walk into Philadelphia as the likely starting quarterback of the Eagles come Week 1.

The source said with "100 percent certainty" that, if Mariota is available at No. 6, it will be the Eagles and not the Jets who will be picking at that spot.

"The Eagles covet Marcus and rightly so. He's a great fit for their offense," the source said. "This could be a case where the Jets could cash in and would be willing to do so. Not quite Ricky Williams level, but we're talking multiple picks and perhaps a player."

The Williams trade refers to the 1999 NFL Draft deal where the New Orleans Saints sent eight draft picks to the Washington Redskins so they could move up seven slots to the No. 5 selection to select Williams, who won the Heisman the year before as a running back at Texas.

KRISTIAN DYER
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By the numbers

20

The Eagles currently hold the No. 20 pick in the NFL draft, but if recent events from Chip Kelly's camp are any indication, the Birds will be willing to be quite aggressive.

Phillies 3, Yankees 1

Phillies pitchers hold Yanks to five hits

There is a lot of competition among Phillies pitchers this spring, and with a handful of bullpen spots open and perhaps even a rotation slot, the Phils' arms Wednesday had a lot to hang their hats on.

Kevin Slowy allowed a single hit. Paul Clemens allowed none, and Hector Neris was perfect as each tossed two impressive innings in a 3-1 win over the Yankees Wednesday.

Ethan Martin allowed the lone run while Justin De Fratus escaped a ninth inning jam to earn a save in the victory.

The Phillies' bullpen was a hindrance early in 2014 but became a strength as De Fratus, joined by Ken Giles and Jake Diekman, proved to be a force late in games for Philly.

Offensively, Wednesday, Odubel Herrera strengthened his case to stay with the club as he knocked three singles and reached on an error.

Aaron Altherr had an RBI-single off the bench while Cord Phelps had two hits and an RBI.

Cliff Lee makes his debut in the Phils' next game vs. the Astros Friday. EVAN MACY

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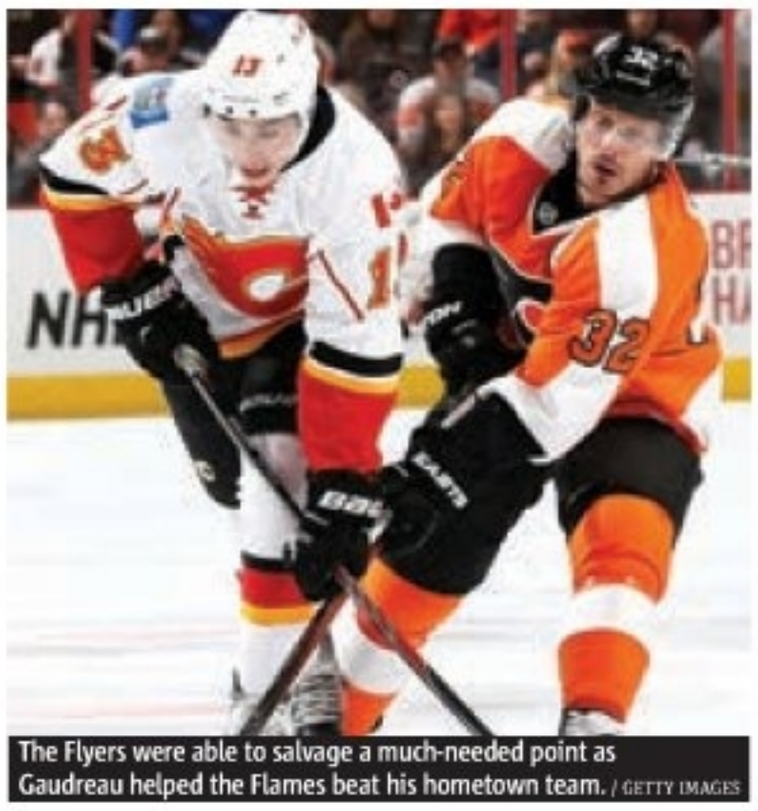
A dream come true: Johnny Hockey's Philly homecoming

NHL. South Jersey native and Flames rookie Johnny Gaudreau's return to Philly had it all, including a dramatic game-winning assist.


The Flyers were able to salvage a much-needed point as Gaudreau helped the Flames beat his hometown team. / GETTY IMAGES

Johnny Gaudreau capped off his homecoming in style.

The Carneys Point, New Jersey, native and Gloucester Catholic High School graduate assisted on the game-winning goal in overtime to help carry the Calgary Flames past the Philadelphia Flyers, 3-2, on Tuesday night.

It put an exclamation point on what was a three-day whirlwind on his first return home since making the Flames roster out of training camp.

"It was a great game for me, and I had a blast playing here," Gaudreau said. "To help set up the game-winning goal here in Philly with a ton of people watching me was pretty exciting for me."

That ton of people was estimated in the thousands. Friends, former classmates and family braved the elements to attend the game.

When Gaudreau, who bought a suite that included 30-35 tickets, leapt over the bench for his first shift, his fans — decked out in Flames jerseys or t-shirts with Gaudreau's No. 13 on the back — roared.

"Yeah, it was pretty neat," said Gaudreau, who won the Hobey Baker Award as the country's best college player last year with Boston College. "I knew I had a lot of support here tonight and just hearing that in the first shift was pretty exciting for me."

Since the Flames didn't have another game after playing at the Islanders on Friday until facing the Flyers, Gaudreau was able to spend three full days in South Jersey. He ate home-cooked meals from his mom and grandmother and slept in his own bed.

Then on Monday afternoon, he had his jersey retired by Gloucester Catholic.

"It was a special day for me," Gaudreau said. "To get your jersey retired is something that doesn't happen every day."

The rookie, who played in the All-Star game and will likely be one of three finalists for the Calder Trophy, given to the league's top rookie, remained humble despite all of the extra attention.

"I didn't even know he was from the area, the way he acted," Flames goalie Karri Ramo said. "He handled it really well."

Even right up until the last second of the game.

"It was just as special as I thought it would be," Gaudreau said. "Growing up, I came to a ton of Flyers games, and getting to play here at Wells Fargo and against the Flyers and [Claude] Giroux, who I have been a big fan of, was pretty exciting as well. It was just a great night all together."

Quoted

"I get to see a ton of friends and family, and it's an exhausting trip, but at the same time it's something I try to take all in. You don't get too many of these in the season."
Johnny Gaudreau

ERIC GOLDSTEIN
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Four things you need to know in sports

1 Flyers host Stars
The Flyers' overtime loss against Calgary Tuesday earned them a point, keeping them in the race for the final playoff spot in the east, but just barely. Two points Thursday against playoff-bound St. Louis will be hard to get, but with just 18 games remaining, Philly must take advantage of every single opportunity to make gains in the standings. The puck drops at 7 p.m. on CSN.

2 Temple on doorstep
The Owls appear to be on the right side of the last four as Selection Sunday approaches, but there is still a little business to take care of. Temple needs to get a win Thursday (7 p.m. on ESPNU) at East Carolina and another one at home against UConn Saturday to finish the season in prime position to earn a berth into the NCAA Tournament in two weeks.

3 On top of Worilds
With the fifth most cap room in the NFL following the announcement of the LeSean McCoy trade and the impending cuts of key veterans, the Eagles will be very active when free agency begins March 10. The Birds are expected to target Steelers linebacker Jason Worilds as soon as free agency begins, according to a sports anchor for NBC4 in Washington. He would be replacing Trent Cole (and Brandon Graham) opposite Connor Barwin at outside linebacker.

4 Bills land Cassel
In the span of about eighteen hours, the Buffalo Bills rebuilt their offense. A quarterback — running back combo of Matt Cassel and LeSean McCoy won't have fans harkening back to Jim Kelly and Thurman Thomas in terms of balance, but it's a great start for new Buffalo head coach Rex Ryan. The Bills acquired Cassel from Minnesota Wednesday, sending multiple undisclosed draft picks to the Vikings. Cassel isn't guaranteed the starting job as he will likely fight with EJ Manuel in training camp for the gig, but he is the front-runner. Cassel was banged up during his two-year run in Minnesota but showed flashes in his time with the Chiefs. In 2010, Cassel threw for 27 touchdowns, 3,116 yards and seven interceptions.

Matt Cassel / GETTY IMAGES

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LEGAL NOTICES

Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, January term, 2015, No. 820. Notice is hereby given that on January 2015, the petition of: Daniel L. Branch Jr. was filed, praying for a decree to change his name to Hu Sunikra NeterRa. The Court has fixed courtdate, March 18, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. in Room No. 691, City Hall, Philadelphia, PA for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted.

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